

Message Text

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17

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 IO-14

SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 CEQ-02

INT-08 SMI-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /111 W

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P R 050955Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3104

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MSOCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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PASS DR. ROBERT WHITE, ADMINISTRATOR, NOAA, AND ROBERT SCHONING,
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, UR, SENV, TBIO, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: JAPANESE REACTION
TO IWC MEETING

SUMMARY: JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY GREATLY CONCERNED OVER
FUTURE STATUS OF INDUSTRY AS RESULT OF ADOPTION OF AUSTRALIAN PRO-
POSAL. INDUSTRY PLANNING TO CONSOLIDATE NORTH PACIFIC WHALING
OPERATION SINCE UNECONOMICAL TO CONTINUE OPERATING THREE FLEETS.
FISHERIES AGENCY WILL SERVE AS MEDIATOR IN PROPOSED REORGANIZATION.
GOJ OFFICIAL CLAIMS MOST DIFFICULT FOR JAPAN TO OBJECT TO IWC DECI-
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SION BUT FORMAL DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER CAREFUL STUDY.

END SUMMARY

1. JAPANESE MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO DEVELOPMENTS AT IWC MEETING. WIDEST COVERAGE PROVIDED BY MAINICHI, WHICH ASSIGNED SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT (MARTIN DAVIDSON) TO COVER MEETING. SINCE MEETING THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS, FAIRLY ACCURATE FEATURE ARTICLES DESCRIBING EFFECT OF IWC DECISION ON JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY. WE HAVE SEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT RECOMMENDING JAPANESE RESPONSE TO IWC DECISION.

2. IWC'S DECISION TO ADOPT AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL ON SELECTIVE WHALING BAN AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO INSTITUTE QTE DRASTIC UNQTE REDUCTION IN WHALE CATCHES HAS CAUSED TREPIDATIONS WITHIN JAPANESE INDUSTRY. INDUSTRY VIEWS AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL AS ONLY FIRST STEP IN PROCESS OF FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN CATCHES, LEADING TO EVENTUAL BAN ON FIN WHALING.

3. REDUCTION IN FIN WHALE QUOTA FOR COMING SEASON ESPECIALLY TROUBLESOME TO INDUSTRY SINCE THIS REPRESENTS LARGEST SHARE OF WHALE CATCH (IN TERMS OF YIELD). INDUSTRY IS REPORTED UNDERTAKING A STUDY TO REORGANIZE AND CONSOLIDATE WHALING FLEETS SINCE IT WILL NO LONGER BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE THREE FLEETS IN NORTH PACIFIC (BELONGING TO TAIYO FISHERY CO., NIPPON SUISAN CO., AND KYOKUYO CO.). FISHERIES AGENCY (JFA) WILL SERVE AS MEDIATOR IN PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF WHALING FLEET. SHOULD COMPANIES NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE ON REORGANIZATION PLAN, JFA WILL BE REQUIRED TO OFFER QTE GUIDANCE UNQTE.

4. ACCORDING TO AKIRA MATSUURA, NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF MARINE FISHERIES DIVISION, JFA, REORGANIZATION OF ANTARCTIC FLEET NOT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE QUOTA FOR ANTARCTIC SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC OPERATION OF PRESENT FLEETS IN COMING SEASON. HE INDICATED TO REGFISHATT THAT CONSOLIDATION AND REORGANIZATION OF NORTH PACIFIC WHALING FLEETS WILL BE QUOTE A BIG HEADACHE UNQUOTE FOR HIM DUE PRIMARILY TO DIFFERENT LABOR-MANAGEMENT INFRA-STRUCTURE WITHIN EACH OF THREE COMPANIES ENGAGED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH PACIFIC WHALING.

5. ASAHI (IN JULY 3 JAPANESE AND ENGLISH EDITIONS), QUOTING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SOURCES, REPORTED THAT JAPAN WILL NOT RAISE ANY OBJECTION TO SELECTIVE WHALING BAN (AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL) BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD ISOLATE JAPAN IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. ASHAHI CLAIMED THAT, INSTEAD, JAPAN WOULD PRESENT ITS CASE STRONGLY AT MEETING CONVENED BY

IWC TO WORK OUT SELECTIVE BAN.

6. WHEN QUESTIONED BY REGFISHATT REGARDING ACTION CON-
TEMPLATED BY GOJ, MATSUURA INDICATED THAT, IN HIS
OPINION, CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DECISION MADE BY COM-
MISSION WERE SUCH THAT IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR
JAPAN TO OBJECT TO IWC'S ACTION. IN SAME BREADTH, HOW-
EVER, HE ADDED THAT GOJ DELEGATION TO IWC WOULD RETURN
TO TOKYO AROUND JULY 10 AND GOJ WOULD NOT MAKE FORMAL
DECISION UNTIL DEBRIEFING HELD AND COMPLETE AND
THOROUGH REVIEW MADE OF SITUATION.
CULBERT

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